

MASING

Speech of the President to a Delegation of Baltimoreans.

INTERESTING PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS

Another Bill in the Senate for the Restoration of Alabama.

The Case of Senator Thomas Disposed of.

He is Declared Ineligible to a Seat in the Senate.

The Legislative and Executive Appropriation Bill Passed in the House.

The New Bill for the Protection of American Citizens in Foreign Countries.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1868. 11 o'clock P. M.

Speech of the President to a Committee of the Baltimore City Council.

At eleven o'clock this forenoon a committee of the two branches of the City Council of Baltimore, headed by Mr. Doral, on the part of the committee, and presented to the President a copy of the resolutions adopted by the Council, endorsing the war and constitutional administration of President Johnson, and tendering to him their hearty cooperation in his endeavor to maintain the constitutional government of the country. The resolutions also extended to him an invitation to visit the city of Baltimore at his earliest convenience, tending to him the freedom of the city. The President received them in his audience chamber, where each member of the delegation was introduced to him by General Phelps. Mr. Doral, on the part of the committee, then presented Mr. Johnson with an official copy of the resolutions with a few appropriate remarks. The President largely spoke as follows:—

I am profoundly thankful for this expression of approval by the Council of the city of Baltimore of my official conduct as the Executive officer of the nation. The manifestation of confidence from the citizens of Baltimore is, at this time, particularly acceptable and gratifying. Our country is now in the midst of a great crisis, and it is the duty of every citizen to do his part in the preservation of the constitutional liberty to consider that ours is a government of law, and to require of our Legislature that when a great measure is proposed, the first inquiry shall be, does it conform to the constitution which they have solemnly sworn to support? It would be the greatest of evils if the people of this country were to be divided into two camps, one of which would be the advocates of the constitution, and the other of which would be the advocates of the rebellion. The President is now in the midst of a great crisis, and it is the duty of every citizen to do his part in the preservation of the constitutional liberty to consider that ours is a government of law, and to require of our Legislature that when a great measure is proposed, the first inquiry shall be, does it conform to the constitution which they have solemnly sworn to support? It would be the greatest of evils if the people of this country were to be divided into two camps, one of which would be the advocates of the constitution, and the other of which would be the advocates of the rebellion.

The Bill Providing for the Protection of American Citizens Abroad.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs to-day agreed upon the bill for the protection of American citizens abroad, and reported it to the House. The bill is reported by General Banks, the chairman of the committee, will report it to the House at the earliest opportunity. The bill is a natural and inherent right of all people indispensable to the enjoyment of the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and for the protection of which the government of the United States is established, and it is the duty of the government to protect its citizens abroad as it does at home.

The Admission of Alabama.

Mr. Norris, chairman of the Republican State Committee of Alabama, and member elect of the House of Representatives, has arrived in this city, and was this morning in conference with various members of Congress. He is the first of the new members of Congress from Alabama to arrive in this city. He says that many of the returned exiles were intimidated from going to the polls, and that the administration of Alabama is imperatively necessary for the protection of the people, as well as the preservation of their material interests.

Restoration of the Army.

The proposition of Mr. Blaine, of Maine, for the gradual reduction of the army was adopted in Committee of the House to-day, after an animated discussion, by ten yeas, and no nays. The bill is reported by Mr. Blaine, and is as follows:— "That hereafter, no law or no act of Congress shall be in force which shall require the maintenance of a larger force of troops than is necessary for the defense of the United States, and for the protection of the people, and for the preservation of the material interests of the country."

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1900; Assistant Solicitor in the Bureau of Revenue Law, \$2,500; Solicitor of the Bureau of the Court of Claims, \$3,000; First Assistant Solicitor of the Bureau of Court of Claims, \$3,000; Second do, \$3,000; one messenger, \$750; Solicitor in the Bureau of Postal Law, \$3,000; one fourth class clerk, and one third class clerk, \$1,500; Solicitor of Bureau of Military and Naval Law, \$3,000; Solicitor General, \$5,000; Solicitor of the Bureau of Land Law, \$3,000; Solicitor of the Bureau of Patent Law, \$3,000; stenographic clerk, \$2,000. Total expenses of the new system, \$151,550 annually. Under the present system the annual expense for the regular recognized officers is \$97,708; but as there are incidental expenses for employment of special counsel, &c., the real difference is, as stated, about \$50,000 in favor of the proposed new system.

The President's Exercise of the Pardon Power.

The President, in reply to a resolution of the House, transmitted a communication from the Attorney General's office, showing all the pardons granted by the President since April 14, 1865, for counterfeiting, &c., with the names of those who recommended the pardons, and the circumstances under which the Executive clemency was extended. It appears from the list that the pardons for forgery were 21; passing counterfeit money, 71; having in possession counterfeit money, 14; presenting false claims, 1; counterfeiting, 3; perjury, 1; attempting to pass counterfeit money, 1; making counterfeit money, 8; dealing in counterfeit money, 1; passing false checks, 1; fraud, 1; making false entries on bank books, 1; selling counterfeit money, 1. Total, 123.

Humored Change in the Cabinet.

Cabinet changes are again occupying the attention of Dame Rumor, who has reorganized President Johnson's staff of constitutional advisers at least twelve times each month for about a year back. The last attempt of this kind was made by Mr. Browning, who, as declared, is about to throw from the good things of the Interior Department, and make way for some new Secretary more desirous of enjoying the honors and emoluments pertaining thereto. I do not vouch for the correctness of the rumor.

Mexican Affairs.

A private letter from General Romero, dated Mexico January 19, says he accepted the office of Secretary of the Treasury, supposing that he could in this very difficult position, under the present circumstances, render some effective service to his country than almost in any other place. Therefore, it was with great reluctance that he gave up his position in Washington and the idea of returning to the United States, a country for which he feels almost as great an attachment as for his own. He may, however, return to Washington for a few days to present the President his letters of recall, and to attend to some private business matters. He says affairs remain quiet at home and there is every prospect of the restoration of permanent peace and the consolidation of the government.

The Accounts of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House.

The Committee of Accounts, which was directed to examine into the accounts of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House, Mr. Ordway, charges having been made by some person affecting his official integrity, not only endorses his honesty, but his faithfulness of duty, and says that the charges are contradictory, and that the testimony given in support of them would not be taken in any court of justice. The chairman of all the investigating committees unite in bearing testimony to the integrity and efficiency of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Case of JOHN H. SURATT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1868.

To-day in the Criminal Court, Judge Carter on the bench, the District Attorney, Mr. Carrington, moved that the case of John H. Suratt, indicted for the murder of Abraham Lincoln, be continued to the next term. Mr. Merrick, of the Attorney General's office, moved that the case be continued to the next term, and that the defense be ready to enter on the trial at the time previously set, the 24th inst.

The Court's Decision.

The Court answered that a case of this importance should not be tried at the close of a term, and a continuance would be granted. Mr. Merrick remarked that it would be impossible for the defense to try the case in March or April, owing to the engagements of Judge Black in these months, and he trusted as this continuance had been granted on the motion of the District Attorney, it would be granted on the motion of the defense at the next term a similar privilege.

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viding that the records of conveyances of vessels required by act of July 20, 1865, shall be made in the office of the Register of Vessels, which has its permanent registry at New York.

Mr. Wilson's Motion.

Mr. Wilson, (rep. of Ill.), moved a bill to grant aid to the railroad from Brownsville, Nebraska, and to other railroads in that State that are interested in the construction of the Missouri and Sioux City Railroad, called up by Mr. HANLAN (rep. of Iowa), which was amended and passed.

Mr. Wilson's Motion.

Mr. Wilson moved to take up the bill relative to officers dismissed from the United States Army by general order, which was referred to the Committee on the Senate side of the House.

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Mr. Wilson's motion was not on a division and the Senate took up the special order.

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